

A ROMANCE OF SCIENCE.

How the French Metrical System was Established—Experiences of M. Arago and Biot. Few persons are conversant with the circumstances under which the metrical system of France was established in the early part of the present century.

The project of founding a system of lineal measurement upon the metre originated among the savans of the Institute of France, and it was submitted to the British Government for adoption. England being then at war with France, the offer was declined.

The Spanish Government in 1809 appointed Signor Chabot and Rodriguez eminent astronomers, to assist in the work, and the French and Institute chose M. Arago—then a young man—and M. Biot, at that time in the prime of life, with a European reputation as one of the most learned physicists of the age.

At the various points of observation, the members of the expedition kept watch day and night from the middle of October to the middle of December. M. Biot, in his report, describes feelingly the trying position of his party, and the dreary aspect of nature from the Isle of Formentera.

Meanwhile, the members of the expedition prepared to leave the isles of Formentera and Ibiza, and remove their astronomical instruments to the mainland of Spain. Before doing so, the curate of the district where M. Biot was situated requested permission for himself and some of the inhabitants to see their instruments.

Not so with the inhabitants of the island of Majorca, where M. Arago was stationed with Senor Rodriguez, on the summit of Mount Galatzo, making his final observations which he successfully accomplished.

islanders were excited by the accounts from the mainland, Napoleon was at that time preparing for his Peninsular campaign, and as the leader of the scientific expedition was a Frenchman, they concluded that he and his companions were emissaries of Bonaparte come to spy the land.

ARRIVAL IN CAPTIVITY. Arrived at Algiers, M. Arago called upon the French Consul, who received him with great kindness, and soon found a passage for him in an Algerian trader bound for Marseilles.

At this time Spain and Algiers were on friendly terms; consequently this seizure of an Algerian vessel by a Spanish cruiser was contrary to international law. As soon as the Dey of Algiers was informed of this insult to his flag, he demanded instant reparation.

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STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS. First Mortgages on City Property, \$706,450. United States Government and other Loan Bonds, 1,129,846.

1829. CHARTER PERPETUAL 1870. Franklin Fire Insurance Company OF PHILADELPHIA. Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESTNUT St.

ASBURY LIFE INSURANCE CO. NEW YORK. LEMUEL BANGS, President. GEORGE ELLIOTT, Vice-President and Secy.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE AGENCY, JAMES M. LONGACRE, Manager. H. C. WOOD, JR., M. D., Medical Examiner.

FIRE ASSOCIATION. INCORPORATED MARCH 17, 1850. OFFICE, No. 24 NORTH FIFTH STREET.

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WALLACE STREET, No. 1411—Handsome Residence, with stable and coach house, two front porches, HUNTINGTON Street, east of SEPTIMA—Two Brick Dwellings.

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